

**“How to be ready for His Coming!”  
Matthew 24:44**

**Big Idea – I need to live my life so I’m ready if Jesus would come today.**

Matthew 24:44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at a time you don’t expect him.

**1. Gather with God’s people for worship.**

Notice how Hebrews 10:23-25 links the importance of gathering with the nearness of the return of Christ: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Brothers and sisters, as we approach the return of Christ, we need to gather regularly so we can stir one another up to love and good deeds. If you’ve been drifting from your commitment to gather in person with God’s people, it’s time to get back in the saddle.

**2. Grow in our relationship with Christ.**

Because Christ could return at any moment, we must live every moment for Him.

Titus 2:11-14: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”

We could say it like this: If you want to be prepared for Jesus’ second coming, then live like His first coming mattered!

**3. Give what God has given to us.**

Being confident Christ could return at any moment will motivate us to manage the resources God has entrusted to us. In the Parable of the 10 Minas, Jesus described a nobleman who gave three months’ wages to his servants to invest.

One translation captures the importance of giving to God's work in Luke 19:13: "Put this money to work until I come back." Are you giving of your time, your talents, and your treasures for kingdom purposes, knowing you will give an account when He returns?

#### **4. Go with the gospel to our neighbors and the nations.**

Don't get so caught up in prophecy you forget to point people to Christ. Knowing people are lost in their sins and will be left behind should motivate us to go with the gospel.

In Acts 1:6, the disciples wanted a timeline for the end times: "So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?'"

Jesus redirected them in verse 7: "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority." Verse 8 calls us not to be focused on date setting, but to be Spirit-empowered witnesses: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The late theologian George Eldon Ladd once said: "The main purpose of prophecy is not to answer all our questions about the future but to enable God's people to live in the present in light of the future."

#### **5. Grow in purity.**

As we anticipate Christ's appearing, we should aspire to purity in our lives. Ponder 1 John 3:3: "And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure." The study of God's prophetic program is always meant to have a purifying effect on His people.

#### **6. Make peace with others.**

If Jesus were to come back right now, would He find you at peace? This word originally referred to the binding or joining together of a broken or divided object, or relationship. It literally means, to set at one again. It is the opposite of being at war.

James 5:9: "Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door."

Do you want Him to come back while you're nursing that grudge? Do you want Him to return when a lack of forgiveness is tearing your relationships apart?

## **7. Put Christ and His kingdom first.**

The evangelist D.L. Moody once said: “I have been working three times as hard since I came to understand that my Lord is coming again.”

Luke 21:28 says: “Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

When Jesus returns, do you want to be found being lazy?

Do you want to be out of the habit of regular worship with God’s people?

Do you want Him to appear when you’re being selfish with your financial resources and not giving to expand His kingdom? Would you be okay if He had returned when you were involved in that secret sin this week?

It’s time to be completely committed, fully engaged, and passionately involved in kingdom living. This is no time to play it safe or sit on the fence.

## **8. Encourage others by speaking of the Lord’s return.**

After describing end-time events, Paul concludes in 1 Thessalonians 4:18: “Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

To “encourage” means to come alongside to give whatever help or comfort is needed. We need a reminder to be ready, for His return will encourage those around us.

## **9. Live as if today is the day.**

The one who is ready for that day is ready for any day. Jesus said it like this in

Luke 12:40: “You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Dr. Horatius Bonar, a Scottish hymn writer from the 1800s, had a custom every night and every morning. When he’d close his curtains before going to bed, he’d say, “Perhaps tonight, Lord!” And in the morning, he’d open the curtains, look up, and say, “Perhaps today, Lord!” This is a practice that would be good for us to imitate.

## **10. Cultivate a Maranatha mindset.**

The Greek word “Maranatha” is found in Revelation 22:20. It means, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

1 Peter 4:7 “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled

and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.”

## **11. Prepare for His return the next time you celebrate communion.**

The Lord’s Supper is a time to remember His first coming and to recalibrate our lives so we’re ready for His second coming.

1 Corinthians 11:26: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

## **12. Hasten His coming by soul winning**

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

2 Peter 3:11 “...You should live holy lives and serve God,  
12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...”

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

Here’s something Ray Pritchard, president of Keep Believing Ministries, said about always being ready:

I believe the coming of the Lord must be near. Many Christians before me have said the same thing. I’m taking my stand with them. I’d rather expect Jesus to come in my lifetime and be wrong than to be so in love with the world that I’m not ready to see Him when He comes.

## **Conclusion**

Friend, Jesus is coming back. Are you ready ... or not?

You certainly don’t want Jesus to come back before you’ve repented of your sins and received Him as your Savior.

I’m reminded of the old Larry Norman song:  
Two men walking up a hill,  
One disappears and one’s left standing still.  
I wish we’d all been ready.  
There’s no time to change your mind,  
The Son has come, and you’ve been left behind.

If you have never turned your life over to Christ and received His salvation, it's time to be reconciled to God before it's too late!

According to 2 Peter 3:9-10, God's patience is on a divine timer: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

I won't beat around the bush. The consequences are too staggering, and the stakes are way too high. Let me say it as clearly as I can. If you have never repented and received Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, you will be in deep trouble when Jesus comes back. If you don't know Jesus, you have an appointment with judgment, and it will be certain, swift, and severe.

Do you want to face ruin, or do you want to be rescued? Do you want to go to Heaven or to Hell? Do you want deliverance or destruction? I'm not sure He's bringing dessert, but He will bring your just desserts if you are not saved.

Don't be left behind. Right now, Jesus is seeking a relationship with you. Respond to Him before it's too late.

### **Going Deeper**

1. If Christ were to come back right now, would you rejoice or want to run and hide?
2. What's the name of an unsaved person you will pray for on a regular basis?
3. Will you determine to go through each day seeking the prompting of the Holy Spirit to enable you to share the gospel with someone?
4. What would you do differently right now if you knew for certain Jesus was returning at 8:00 tonight?